



KEVIN O'BRIEN

O'Brien is carried off at Sandy Lane

Cor. Casuals 0. Wycombe W. 4

WYCOMBE WANDERERS secured another two points, but lost goalkeeper Kevin O'Brien in the process, at Sandy Lane on Thursday. O'Brien was carried off on a stretcher a minute before half-time with severe concussion.

It was not until after an hour that the meagre crowd were provided with any real entertainment. Indeed it was somewhat ominous when Isthmian League basement residents, Casuals, provided the most promising attack of the first 15 minutes.

All it needed was an outstretched boot to tap home Jenkins' low cross and Wycombe would have been in trouble.

There was far too much first time passing throughout the first period and no-one seemed to want to hold the ball and then provide the pass. Wycombe in fact were finding it increasingly difficult to get into the game when Bernie Bremer let loose one of his specials.

The goal came after the ball had been half cleared for a corner. Delaney met the return ball and nodded it down for Bremer to crash past goalkeeper Lamb on the volley.

Just on half time Casuals' leading scorer Elias, latched on to a Delaney back-pass. O'Brien

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was forced to dive at his feet and the collision resulted in the keeper being carried off. Elias resumed with a heavily bandaged leg but went off soon into the second half.

John Delaney took over in goal for the remaining minute of the half but it was Bremer who wore the goalkeeping jersey in the second half. Bernie had been troubled by a persistent ankle injury and was therefore the obvious choice to fill in the position. Substitute Geoff Anthony came on at the start of the second period.

Anthony seemed to inject some much needed enthusiasm into Wycombe and for the first time in the match they began to look like league title contenders. Searle had two efforts saved by the 'keeper before Tony Horseman scored the first of his two goals.

The goalkeeper was mostly to

blame for the goal but Horseman took his chance well. Delaney sent a perfect through ball to the lean striker who shot on the volley under Lamb's body.

With the added confidence of another goal, Wanderers turned on some delightful football. Casuals' first half fight drained away and Wycombe began to find many gaps in their overworked defence. Horseman had a jack-knife header tipped away after a Pritchard cross before John Delaney scored Wycombe's third.

In the 75th minute another Pritchard cross, this time from a free kick, found Delaney. The tall centre half waltzed round one defender with the aplomb of a forward, before crashing the ball past Lamb.

The four faithful Corinthian supporters behind Bremer's goal were seldom rewarded as Wycombe continued to keep possession and pile up scoring chances.

Tony Horseman got another goal with 10 minutes remaining. Keith Blunt supplied a precision pass to 'Bodger' who cut through the tired Casuals defence and curved his shot just into goal between the upright and Lamb.

There was just time for Hall to waste the best chance Casuals had all evening when he sent his header wide of goal in the closing seconds — just about all those four supporters saw of their team in the second half!

CORINTHIAN CASUALS: C. Lamb, P. Dick, R. Cairns, C. Joy, I. Longworth, D. Jenkins, R. Southam, K. Jones, W. Edmunds, E. Elias (Sub. Franklin 50 mins.), K. Hall.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: K. O'Brien (Sub. G. Anthony 45 mins), K. Blunt, I. MacLean, I. Rundle, J. Delaney, V. Faulkner, B. Baker, B. Bremer, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, A. Horseman.